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Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-15 EB-08 TRSE-00 OMB-01 COME-00 /079 W
----------062444 272006Z /50
P 271745Z JAN 78
FM AMCONSUL MONTREAL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9968
INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY
AMCONSUL QUEBEC PRIORITY

UNCLAS MONTREAL 0196

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: SOPN, PINT, CA
SUBJECT: POLL ON REFERENDUM ISSUE

REF: MONTREAL'S 187

1. SECOND SET OF DATA RE RECENT POLL (REFTEL) HIGHLIGHTS (A) IMPORTANCE OF DESIGN OF REFERENDUM BALLOT AND (B) LACK OF UNDERSTANDING OF "SOVEREIGNTY-ASSOCIATION."

2. TABLE OF QUESTIONS AND RESULTS FOLLOWS.

1. IF A VOTE ON THE FUTURE OF QUEBEC OFFERED THESE OPTIONS WHICH ONE WOULD YOU CHOOSE?

		UNION	PARTI				
	TOTAL	LIB.	NAT.	QUE.	CRED.	REF	DK
QUEBEC TO BECOME INDEPENDENT	6 0/0	1	---	12	4	2	3
QUEBEC TO REMAIN WITHIN CANADA	55 0/0	89	82	19	65	57	56

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INDEPENDENT BUT HAVE ECONOMIC ASSOCIATION WITH REST OF CANADA	36 0/0	9	18	66	23	30	33
DON'T KNOW	4 0/0	1	---	3	8	11	8

2. AND IF A VOTE OFFERED THESE OPTIONS WHICH ONE

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WOULD YOU CHOOSE?

		UNION	PARTI				
	TOTAL	LIB.	NAT.	QUE.	CRED.	REF	DK
QUEBEC TO BECOME INDEPENDENT	20	0/0	2	2	50	4	9	6
QUEBEC TO REMAIN WITHIN CANADA	71	0/0	96	98	38	89	71	79
DON'T KNOW	9	0/0	2	--	12	8	20	--

3. THE FOLLOWING ARE THE RESULTS WHEN GALLUP LET RESPONDENTS DEFINE "SOVEREIGNTY-ASSOCIATION" IN THEIR OWN WORDS.

		UNION	PARTI				
	TOTAL	LIB.	NAT.	QUE.	CRED.	REF	DK
AN INDEPENDENT QUEBEC WITH (CLOSE) ECONOMIC/ FINANCIAL ASSOCIATION WITH REST OF CANADA	22	0/0	18	13	33	12	16	12
ASSOCIATION BETWEEN INDEPENDENT GOVTS.	8	0/0	8	4	9	4	9	11

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		UNION	PARTI				
	TOTAL	LIB.	NAT.	QUE.	CRED.	REF	DK
NO MEANING/JUST A SYMBOL/ UNNECESSARY	8	0/0	11	10	4	15	2	9
INDEPENDENCE	7	0/0	7	7	8	8	5	6
MONARCHY/QUEEN/ SOVEREIGN	4	0/0	5	4	4	4	2	4
OTHER	16	0/0	17	20	16	19	14	9
DON'T KNOW	37	0/0	36	44	28	39	52	51

4. IF SUCH A VOTE IS TO BE HELD WHICH CHOICE WOULD YOU PREFER TO BE OFFERED?

		UNION	PARTI				
	TOTAL	LIB.	NAT.	QUE.	CRED.	REF	DK
THE CHOICE WITH 2 OPTIONS	46	0/0	60	56	33	58	36	46
THE CHOICE WITH 3 OPTIONS	37	0/0	25	28	54	31	27	29
NO PREFERENCE	9	0/0	9	10	6	8	16	13
DON'T KNOW	8	0/0	6	7	7	4	20	12

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3. COMMENT: MOST SIGNIFICANT FACTOR REVEALED IS SHARP SHIFT RE INDEPENDENCE OR CONTINUED FEDERATION WHEN TWO OPTIONS ARE OFFERED, RATHER THAN THREE (OR VICE VERSA). THE 20 PERCENT SUPPORT FOR INDEPENDENCE IN A TWO-OPTION BALLOT DROPS TO 6 PERCENT WHEN THE THIRD OPTION OF "INDEPENDENCE WITH ECONOMIC ASSOCIATION" IS INJECTED, AND A SIMILAR, SLIGHTLY LARGER DROP IN THAT CIRCUMSTANCE IS FOUND IN THE "REMAIN IN CANADA" RESULTS. DESPITE THIS, IT IS CLEAR FROM NEXT QUESTION THAT THERE IS LITTLE COMMON UNDERSTANDING OF THE MEANING OF THAT THIRD OPTION. IT IS ALSO CLEAR THAT THERE HAS BEEN NO REAL GROWTH IN SUPPORT FOR INDEPENDENCE REGARDLESS OF BALLOT FORMAT.

4. IT IS ALSO STRIKING THAT THE TWO-OPTION RESULTS SHOW ONLY
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50 PERCENT OF PQ VOTERS CHOOSING INDEPENDENCE AND 38 PERCENT FAVORING STAYING IN CANADA. IT MUST BE ASSUMED THAT THE HOPE FOR "GOOD GOVERNMENT" THAT PROMPTED NON-SEPARATISTS TO VOTE PQ IN NOVEMBER 1976 HAS NOT YET DIED, WHEN SUPPORT FOR THE GOVERNMENT, ON ONE HAND, AND FOR ITS RAISON D'ETRE ON THE OTHER, SPLITS 50-50.

5. IT IS SOMEWHAT SURPRISING THAT ONLY 60 PERCENT OF THE LIBERALS, WHO WERE STAUNCH IN SUPPORT OF FEDERALISM IRRESPECTIVE OF NUMBER OF OPTIONS, PREFERRED THE TWO-OPTION VERSION SINCE THEY SHOULD HAVE KNOWN THAT THE THIRD OPTION WOULD DILUTE RESULTS FOR THEIR PREFERENCE. OPPOSITE RESULTS AMONG PQ VOTERS SUGGEST THEY UNDERSTOOD THE PROSPECTIVE EFFECT.
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Draft Date: 27 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
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Review Release Event: n/a
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Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3701685
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: POLL ON REFERENDUM ISSUE
TAGS: SOPN, PINT, CA
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/57ae70df-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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